

WEST CERTIFICATE IN U.S. LATINO/A STUDIES

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- The WEST program is committed to deepening the understanding of the histories, cultures, and perspectives of groups whose stories and experiences have been marginalized, with special emphasis on those within our own community. Thus, an area that we are developing within the program is Latino/a Studies. Approached with a special emphasis on cultural and historical context, this concentration is designed to highlight the diverse experiences of the various Latino/a communities in the United States, and engage students in the ongoing debate regarding how transnational Latina/o identifications are constructed and defined in the wake of the globalization, migration, and diaspora. The courses offered in this concentration emphasize the manner in which cultural identification has been approached, theorized and defined, and the manner in which ethnic/racial, cultural and social identity has been conceptualized in terms of intertwined categories such as class, gender, and sexual or religious orientation. For WEST majors, minors, and other students wishing to concentrate in these areas, we offer a certificate of specialization in Latino/a Studies.
- Given the particular demographics of the region in which we are located, a certificate in Latino/a Studies is marketable to a wide range of employers and educational institutions, including social work, graduate and professional schools, community action organizations (non-profits and NGOs), health care providers, government agencies, and social/ legal services. Participation in the certification program also provides students with opportunities for networking and mentoring within these specializations.

Certificate in Latino/a Studies - 12 credits, 9 upper division credits

After completing the pre-requisite WEST 1010 (Introduction to Social Justice Studies), students are required to take 12 credits (4 courses) from the list below. 9 of the 12 credits must be upper division. A minimum grade of C (2.0) is required for each course applied toward the certificate.

To enroll in the certificate program, please meet with the Coordinator to turn in the completed application form. In order to complete the certificate program, students are required to submit a transcript and a five-page, typewritten self-reflective statement evaluating her/his perceptions regarding the knowledge gained in the concentration and implications for future scholarly and professional work. Please submit the statement to the coordinator. The certificate will be mailed to recipients following graduation upon completion of a certificate audit by the coordinator.

Course selection guidelines:

- Independent studies **may not** be used to earn this certificate.
- All courses must be offered through the WEST program or Languages & Cultures Department (SPAN) and/or affiliates.

Below is a current list of courses:

Students may take any of the following courses:

WEST 3230 The Chicano Community
WEST 3060 Multi-racial Identities
WEST 3360 U.S. Latino/a Literature
WEST 3380 Caribbean Literature, History, and Theory
WEST 3490 Youth Gangs
*WEST 3500 Chicano History to 1919
*WEST 3510 Chicano History Since 1910
WEST 3520 History of Latinos in the U.S.
*WEST 3580 Immigrant Histories
WEST 3990 Readings in Multiethnic Literature *(requires approval from the certificate director)

WEST 4170 'The Empire Strikes Back': Postcolonial Literature,
History and Theory

*please note that these courses are not offered on a regular basis

Students may take up to 2 of the following courses:

SPAN 4210 Hispanic Heritage of Colorado
SPAN 4410 Studies in US-Mexican Border Literature
SPAN 4420 Hispanic/Latino US Literature
SPAN 4430 Hispanic US Drama
SPAN 4440 Hispanic, Chicano/a, & Mexican-American Literature

Students may take 1 of the following courses:

SPAN 3000 Spanish Grammar & Composition
SPAN 3010 Advanced Spanish Conversation & Composition

Students are strongly encouraged to study in a setting where Spanish is spoken. Travel courses are offered, for example, by Women's and Ethnic Studies and the Departments of Languages & Cultures, Anthropology, and Geography at UCCS; and are also available through the Office of International Education at UC Boulder and Denver.

Additional special topics courses (as they are developed) may be offered and can be counted toward the certificate. These courses must be approved in advance by the certificate coordinator or the WEST Program Director.

Students may enroll in the certificate program by completing a brief application available on the website (www.uccs.edu/west), from the coordinator, or at the WEST office (AOB 406, tel. 719.255.4553).

WEST Certificate in Latino/a Studies

Application

Name _____ Student Number _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Major(s) _____ Minor(s) _____

Latino/a Studies Certificate Courses Completed

*After completing the pre-requisite WEST 1010 (Introduction to Social Justice Studies), students are required to complete 12 credits in order to complete the certificate, 9 of which must be upper division.

WEST 1010: Semester: _____ Grade Received: _____

Course Number	Title	Semester	Grade

Completion of Requirements

(To be completed by the Latino/a Studies Certificate Coordinator)

1. Course requirements met? _____
2. Transcript reviewed and attached? _____
3. Self-Reflective statement reviewed and attached? _____
4. Contact information updated? _____

Certificate Coordinator's Signature/Date: _____